



## **GIS Activities within the National Ocean Service**

Tony LaVoi  
Acting Deputy Branch Chief, Coastal Information Services  
NOAA Coastal Services Center

### **Abstract**

This presentation will focus on selected geospatial activities within the National Ocean Service and specifically at the Coastal Services Center. We will highlight key spatial data sets created and maintained by NOS, along with applications, tutorials, and other resources available to users of this information.

# **GIS Activities within NOAA's Ocean Service**



**Tony LaVoi  
NOAA Coastal Services Center**

**GIS Tools Supporting Ecosystem  
Approaches to Management  
September 8-10, 2004**

# **Selected GIS Activities within NOAA's Ocean Service Related to Fishery Management (*not including NCCOS*)**



**Tony LaVoi  
NOAA Coastal Services Center**

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# General Outline

- Datasets and tools
- Applications and products
- Coordination and training

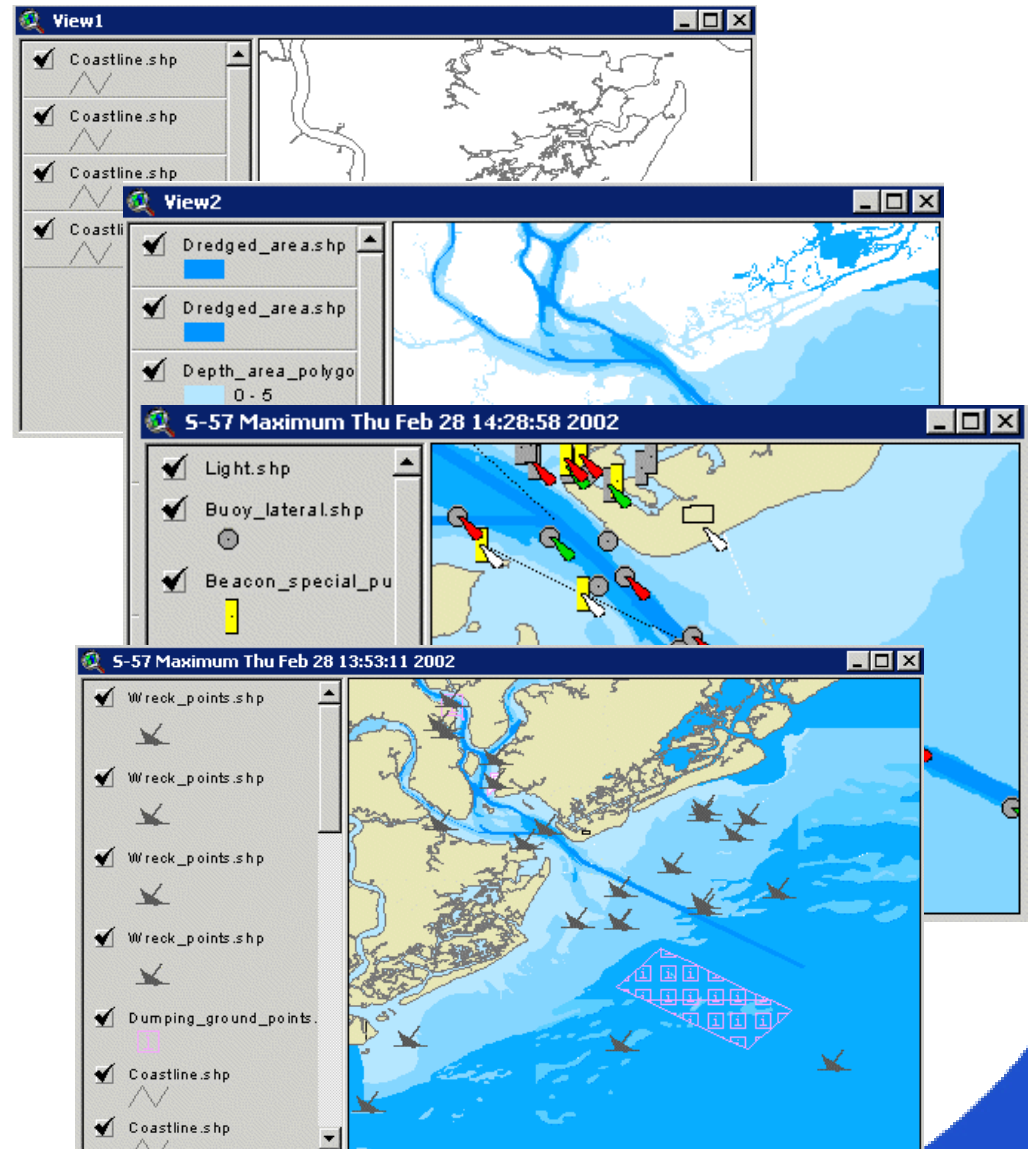
# Electronic Navigational Charts

- Electronic Navigational Chart (ENCs) – a special type of vector chart
- Produced by Office of Coast Survey
- More than a map - a database of chart features
- Produced using the International Hydrographic Organization S-57 Standard
- User can display selected layers within a GIS or navigation system



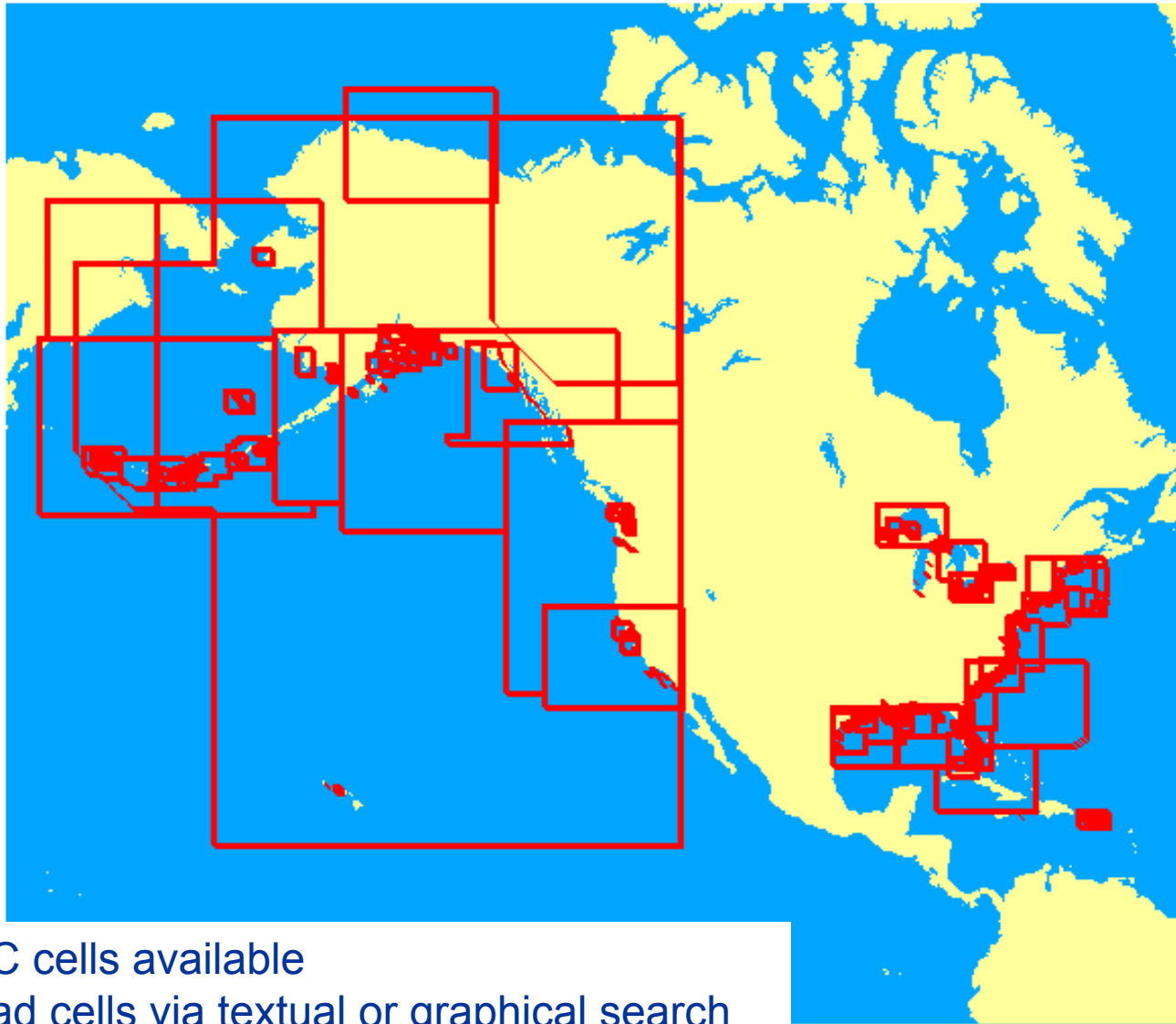
# Potential Applications of ENC data

- Coastal mapping
  - base maps
  - bathymetry
  - shoreline
  - aids to navigation
- Environmental assessment
  - channels
  - caution areas
  - high traffic zones
  - marinas
- Resource management
  - dredged areas
  - bottom types
  - wrecks and obstructions
  - boundaries





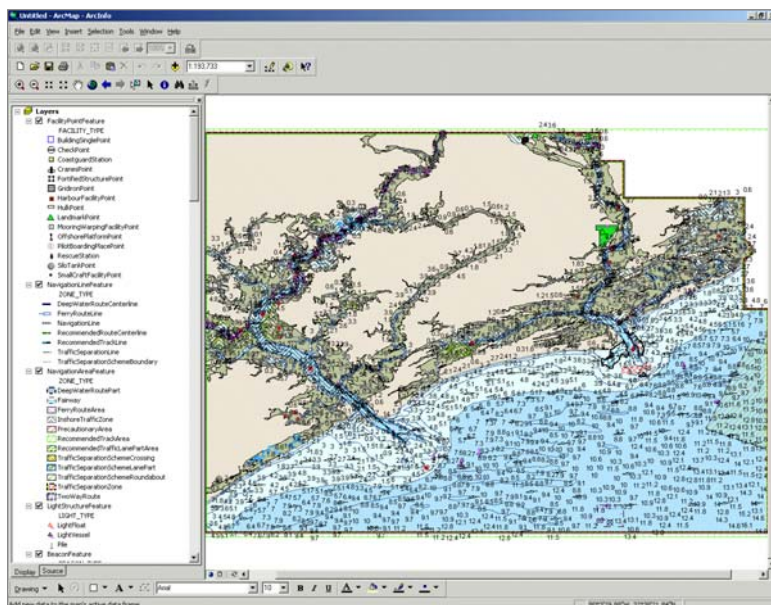
# ENC Coverage Area



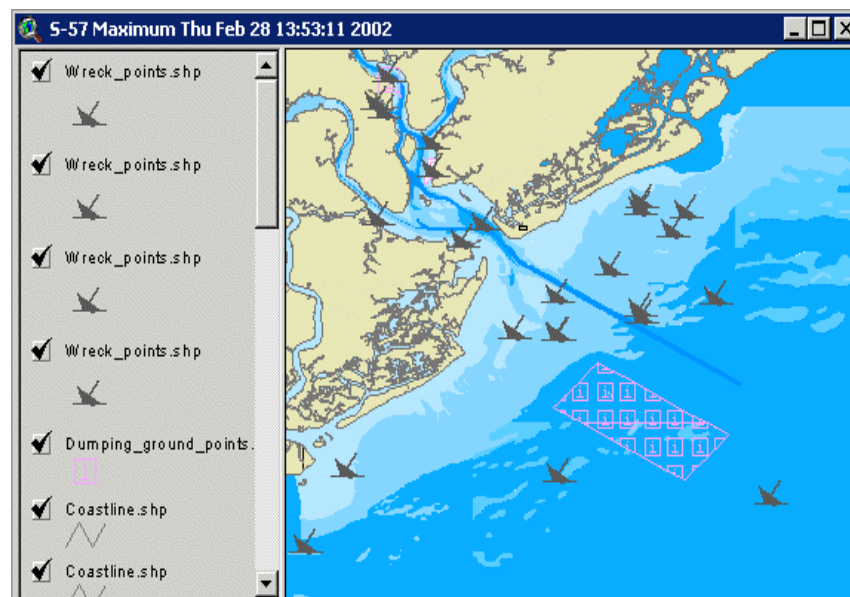
- 429 ENC cells available
- Download cells via textual or graphical search

# CSC ENC Desktop GIS Tools

## ENC Data Handler for ArcView 8.x



## ENC Data Handler for ArcView 3.x

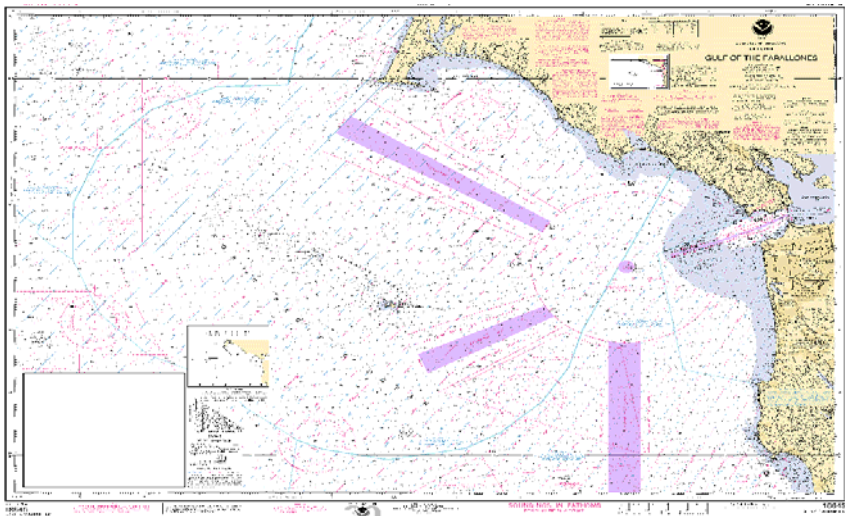


\* Other free viewing and display tools are available. The Office of Coast Survey maintains a list of selected tools on their ENC Web site.



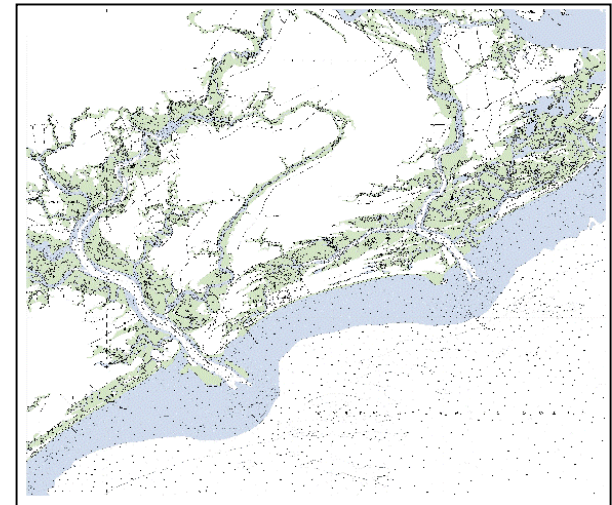
# NOAA Nautical Charts

## Raster Nautical Charts (RNCs)



- Georeferenced, digital image of NOAA paper chart
- Available for fee from MapTech
- Proprietary format

## Coastal Map Series



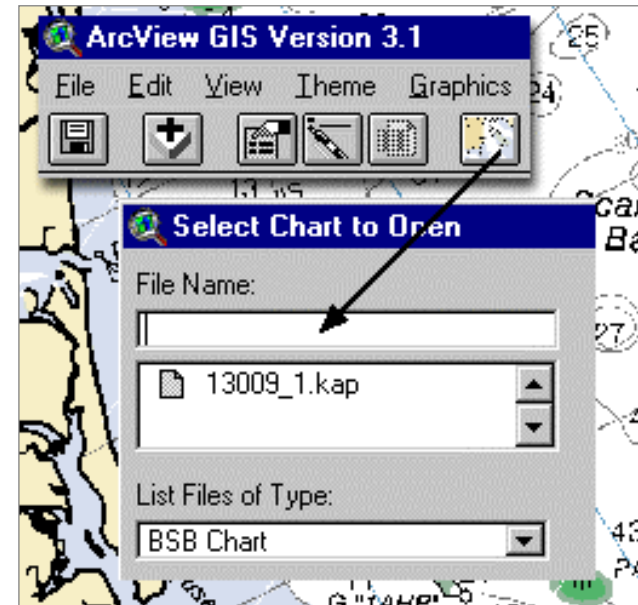
- Non-proprietary format
- Not for navigation
- GEOTIFF

RNC = <http://www.maptech.com>

CMS = [http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/ctp/cm\\_vs.htm](http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/csdl/ctp/cm_vs.htm)

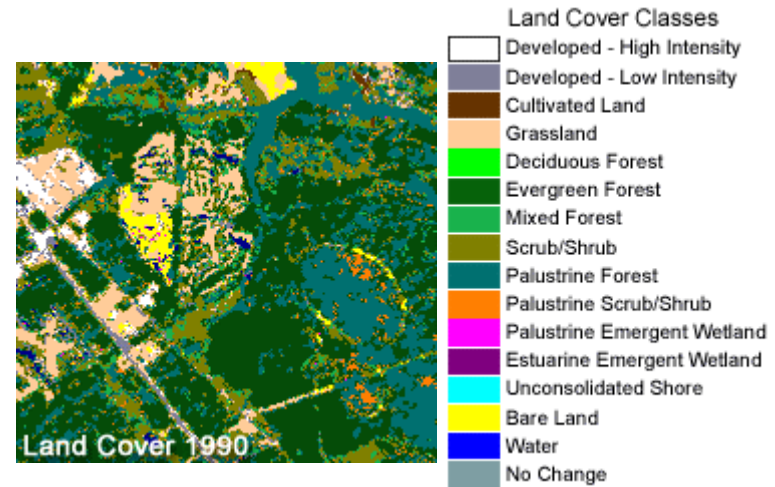
# CSC Tools for MapTech RNCs

- CSC developed a series of desktop extensions for users to access NOAA RNCs distributed by MapTech
- Three versions - ArcView 3.x, Imagine 8, and ArcGIS 8.x
- Also developed Chart Reprojector, a stand-alone application that changes the projection of a chart, creating a new file in BSB or TIFF format
- Current release of MapTech charts are encrypted and not viewable using CSC tools
  - ArcGIS tools available from MapTech



# Land Cover and Change Data

- Coastal Change Analysis Program (C-CAP) is dedicated to the development, distribution, and application of land cover and *change* data for the nation's coastal zone
- Landsat TM-based (30-meter resolution) but exploring “next generation” data
- Coordinated with USGS National Land Cover Dataset (NLCD) effort
- A digital map product-line
  - Land cover - time 1  
(~ current year)
  - Land cover - time 2  
(~5-year retrospective)
  - Retrospective *change*  
(time 1 - time 2)

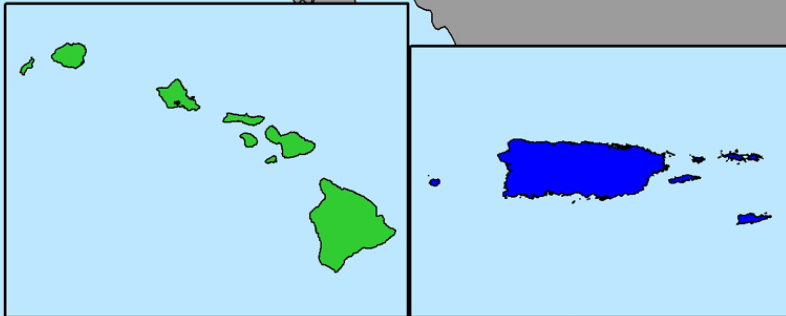


***Objective: To improve scientific understanding of the linkages between coastal wetland habitats, adjacent uplands, and living marine resources***

# C-CAP Baseline Status

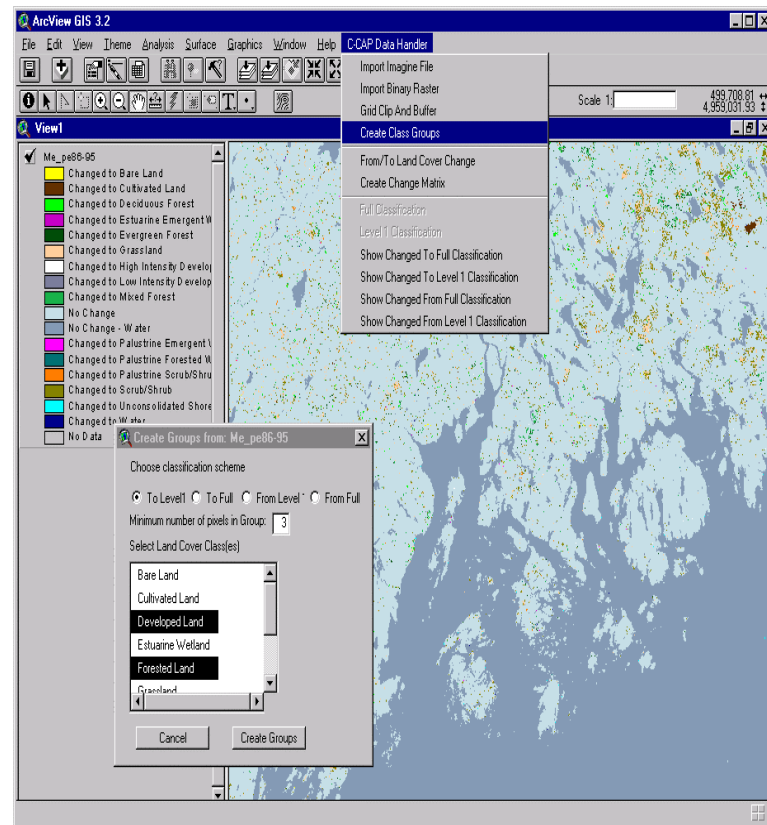
## Project Status

- Completed 2001
- Completed 2003
- Completed 2004
- In Progress - Complete 2005
- In Progress - Complete 2006
- Planned 2006
- Planned 2007



# C-CAP Data Handlers and Access

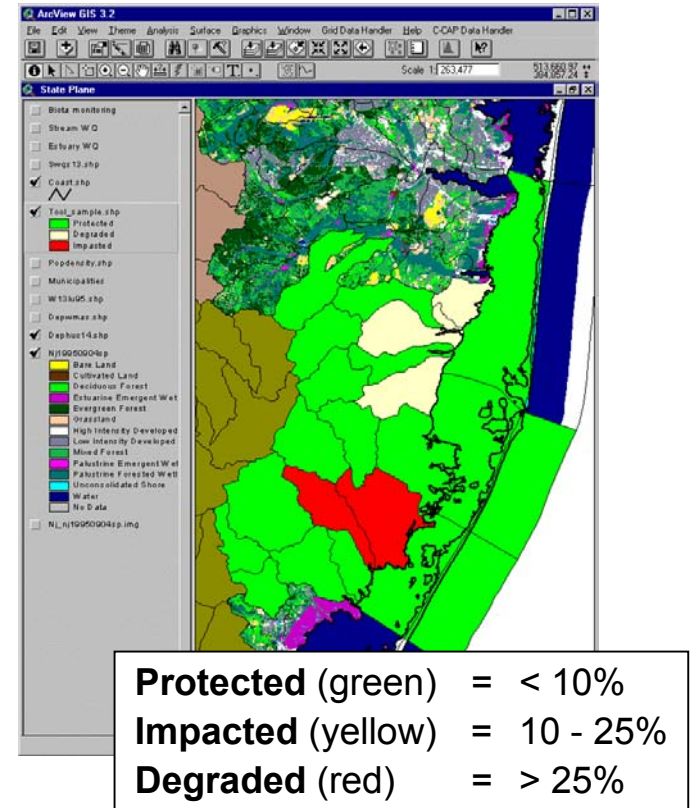
- Data Handler – ArcView 3.x
  - Analyzes and compares groups of related land cover classes
  - Applies standard legend to *change* data
  - Clips grid to shapefile
  - Creates buffers
  - Generates statistical change table
- Legend Handler – ArcView 3.x
  - Doesn't require Spatial Analyst Extension
- C-CAP Data Map Server for data access





# Impervious Surface Analysis Tool

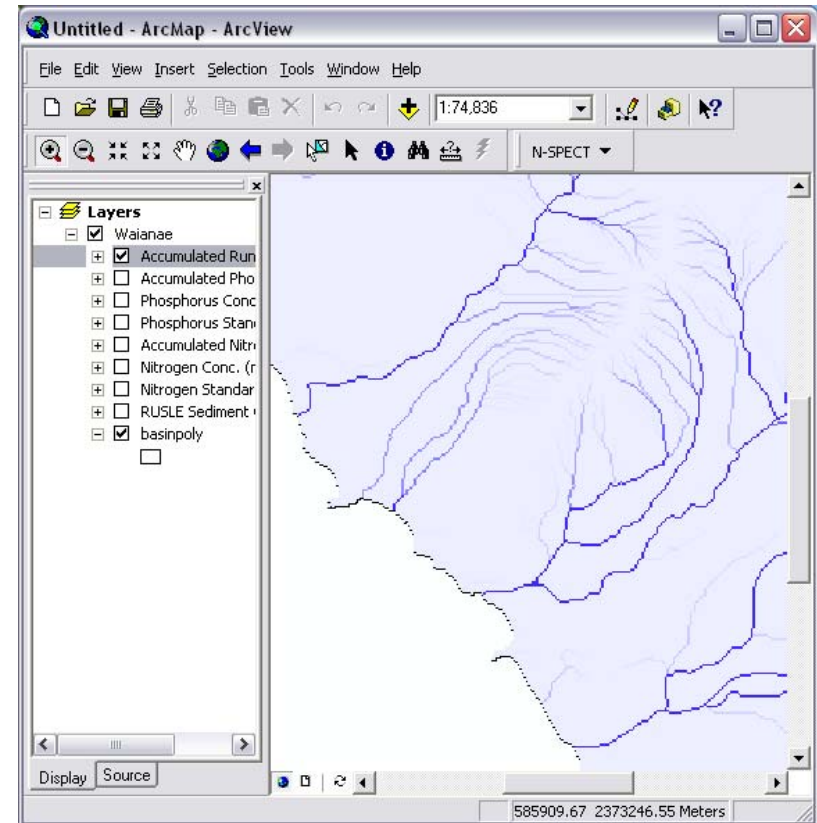
- Estimates percent impervious surface of user selected areas based on land cover data
- Scenarios
  - Estimates watershed impacts due to landscape changes
- Uses existing land cover data (C-CAP or other formats)
- ArcView 3.x / ArcGIS 8.x Extensions
- Partnership Project
  - Nonpoint Source Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Organization





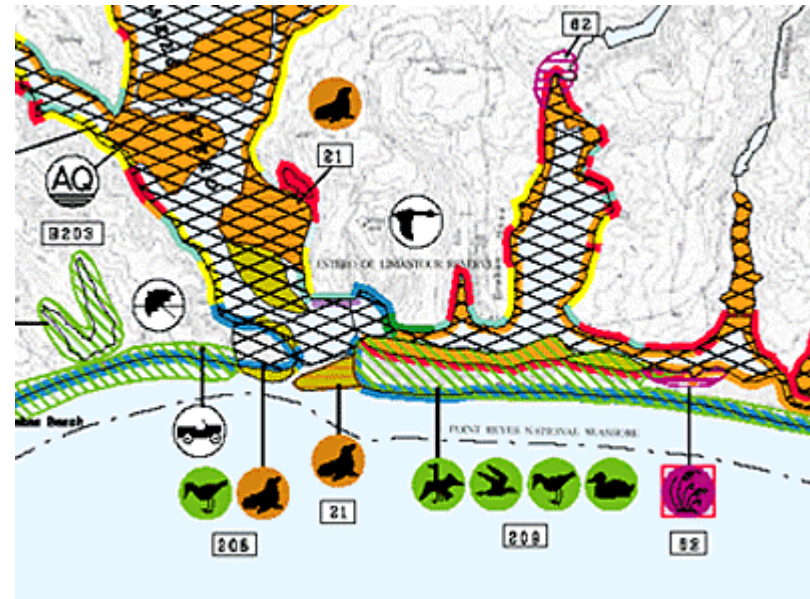
# N-SPECT

- Nonpoint-Source Pollution & Erosion Comparison Tool (ArcGIS extension)
- Help managers understand and predict impacts of management decisions on water quality
- Tool examines the relationship between land cover, nonpoint source pollution, and erosion
- Results will be useful for understanding and predicting the impacts of management decisions on water quality and, potentially, on coral health



# Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI)

- ESI maps serve as quick references for oil and chemical spill responders and coastal zone managers
- Data includes:
  - Shorelines – Color-coded to indicate their sensitivity to oiling
  - Sensitive biological resources, such as seabird colonies and marine mammal hauling grounds
  - Sensitive human-use resources, such as water intakes, marinas, and swimming beaches
- Available for most coastal areas in the US
- Data formats include:
  - ArcExport, ArcView project, MOSS file, ESI viewer, PDF, and Paper Atlas



# CSC Benthic Habitat Mapping

- Spatial Data
  - Downloadable data sets
- Mapping
  - Techniques
  - Classifications
  - Case studies
- Resources
  - Center products
  - Image gallery
- Funding/Partnerships
  - How to work with the Center

**Benthic Habitat Mapping - Microsoft Internet Explorer**

Address: <http://www.csc.noaa.gov/benthic/>

**NOAA Coastal Services Center**  
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

Center Home  
Issues and Solutions  
**Benthic Habitat Mapping**  
Spatial Data  
Mapping Information  
Resources  
Funding / Partnership Information

**Benthic Habitat Mapping**

This Web site was developed to bring benthic habitat mapping information, spatial data, and assistance to the coastal management community. The NOAA Coastal Services Center works with resource managers and mapping professionals to promote the use of benthic habitat mapping to address coastal management issues.

- [Spatial Data](#)  
Download our benthic datasets, available in PKZIP format, or link to our partners' data distribution systems.
- [Mapping](#)

**Sub-bottom Profiling**

Sub-bottom profiling systems identify and measure various sediment layers that exist below the sediment/water interface. These acoustic systems use a technique that is similar to simple echosounders. A sound source emits a signal vertically downwards into the water and a receiver monitors the return signal that has been reflected off the seafloor. Some of the acoustic signal will penetrate the seabed and be reflected when it encounters a boundary between two layers that have different acoustical properties (acoustic impedance). The system uses this reflected energy to provide information on sediment layers beneath the sediment-water interface.

Acoustic impedance is related to the density of the material and the rate at which sound travels through the material. When there is a change in acoustic impedance, such as the water-sediment interface, part of the transmitted sound is reflected. However, some of the sound energy penetrates through the boundary and into the sediments. This energy is reflected when it encounters boundaries between deeper sediment layers having different acoustic impedance. The system uses the energy reflected by these layers to create a profile of the sub-bottom sediments.

Several sonar parameters (output power, signal frequency, and pulse length) affect the instrument performance.

- An increase in output power gives better penetration into the sub-bottom layers. This will usually

**getting started**  
What is Benthic Habitat?  
Why Map Benthic Habitat?

**species of the month**

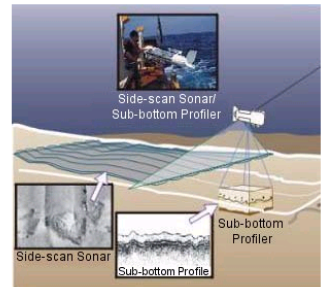
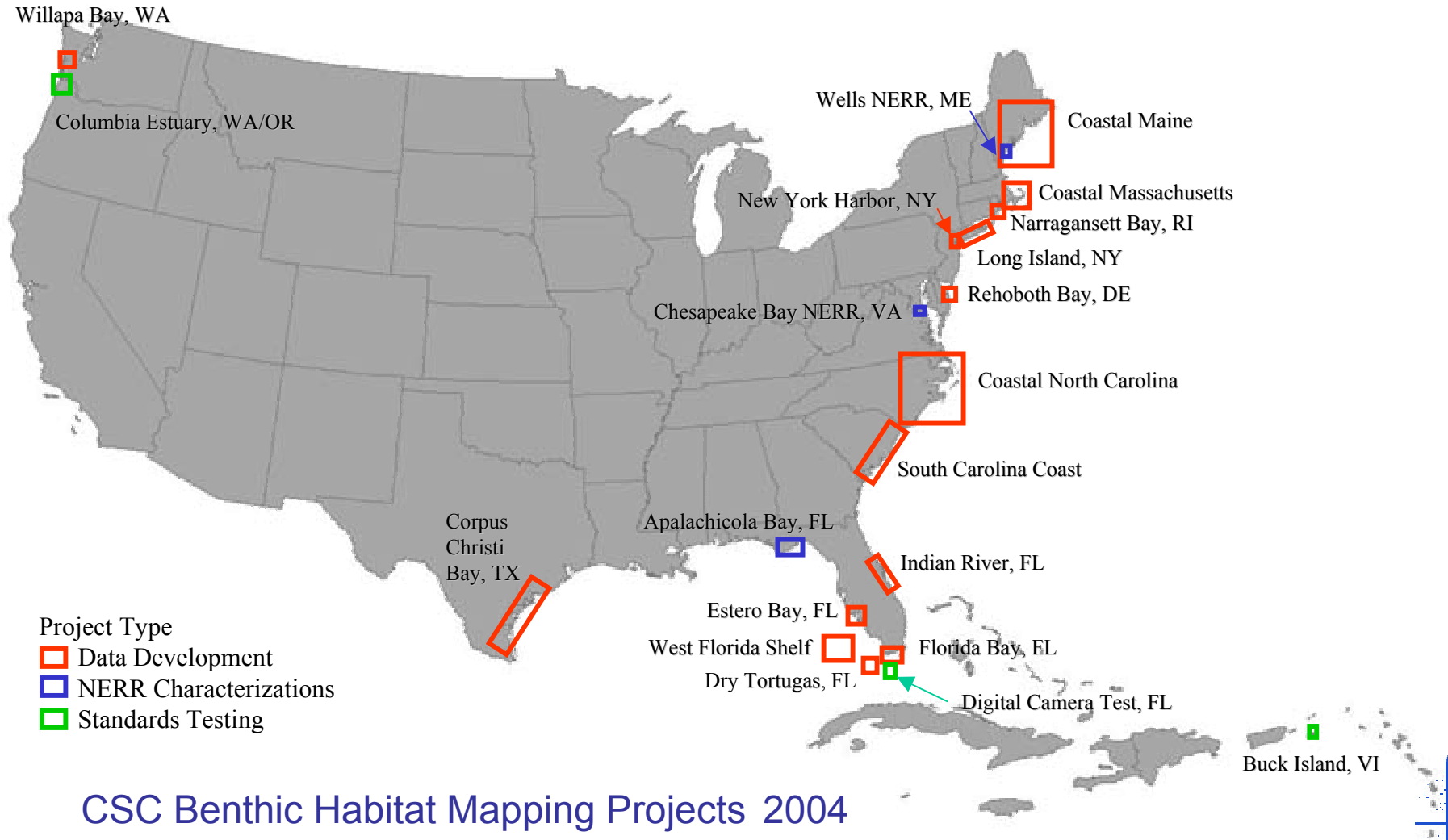


Diagram of a combined sub-bottom profiling system and side-scan sonar.  
Courtesy: Science Applications International Corporation

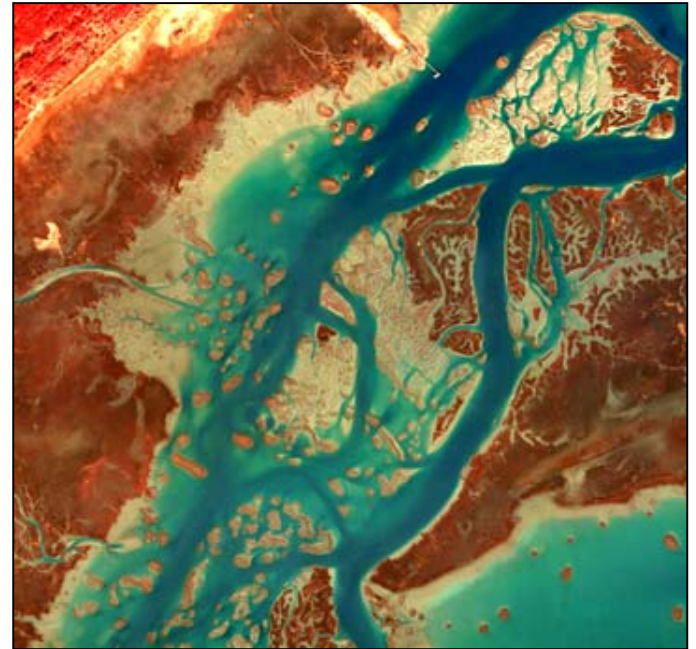
# CSC Benthic Habitat Data Availability



# Data Development

## Benthic habitat

- South Carolina Oyster Habitat
  - Airborne imagery acquisition (GeoVantage)
    - Managing existing task order (2003)
    - Continuing acquisitions and QA reviews (target completion summer '05)
  - Oyster mapping
    - Supporting SC DNR's state-wide oyster mapping contract





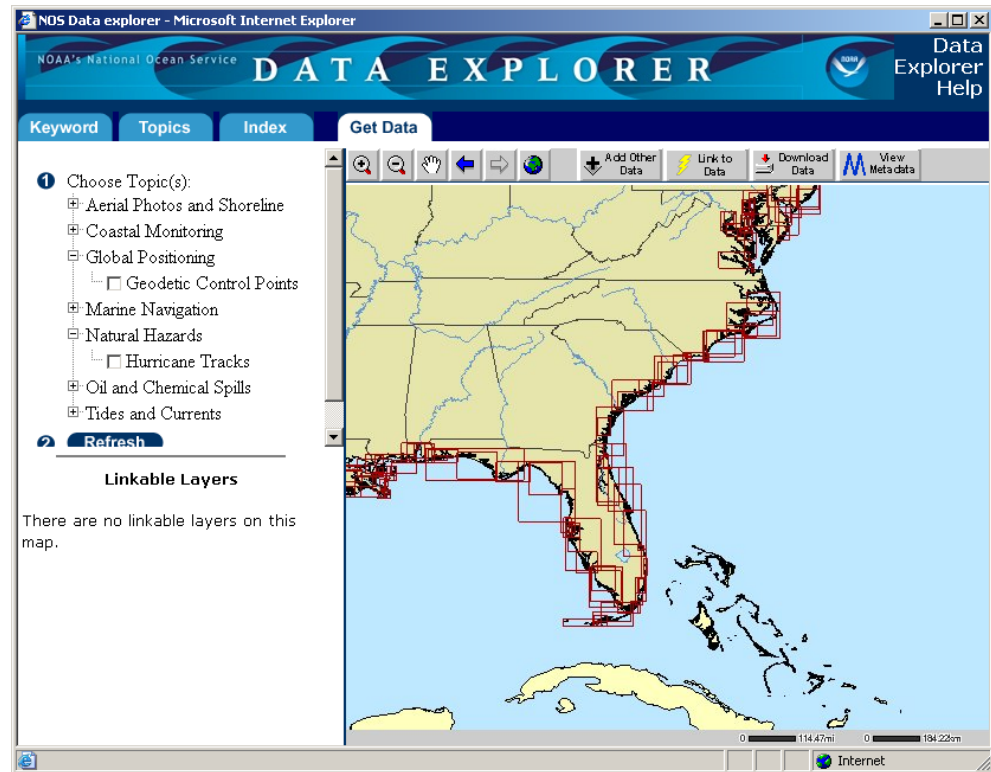
- Assessing current state of the art in operational water quality remote sensing
- Bringing together coastal managers, commercial vendors, and academics to share knowledge and demonstrate capability
- Four contractors collected data on Patuxent River, MD in mid-August
- MD partners (DNR & MDE) collected ground truth data
- Contractors will submit final data in late September
- Center compares ground truth data to remote sensing data and provides an assessment of capabilities





# NOS Data Explorer

- Pre-operational data portal for selected NOS spatial data holdings
- Provides a variety of discovery, viewing, and data download tools
- Portal utilizes local data inventory but provides distributed access NOS datasets
- Currently over 100 metadata records and associated datasets accessible via the portal



# Ocean Planning Information System (OPIS)

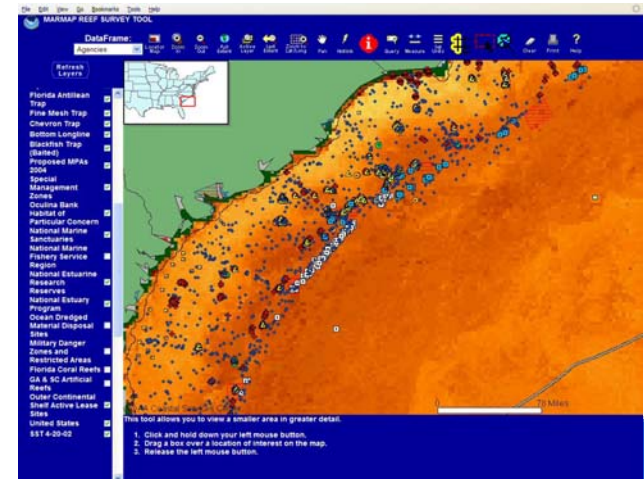
- Ocean planning information system to enhance regional and integrated approaches to ocean management in the southeast
- Over 100 spatial data layers and metadata in the following categories
  - Economic Resources
  - Federal Jurisdictions
  - Geo-Regulations
  - Hazards
  - Living Resources
  - Marine Protected Areas
  - Ocean Uses
  - Physical Resources
  - Political Boundaries
- Recently redesigned Web site and new ArcIMS mapping interface

The screenshot displays the OPIS Data Information & Download Page. At the top, there is a grid of nine categories: Geo-Regulations, Ocean Uses, Marine Protected Areas, Physical Resources, Living Resources, Economic Resources, Hazards, Political Boundaries, and Federal Jurisdictions. Below this grid, the page title is 'Ocean Planning Information System' and the section is 'Spatial Data Download'. A paragraph explains that data layers are compressed and available in .zip format, with a link to the PKWARE website for downloading the unzip utility. A list of links for each category is provided: Economic Resources, Federal Jurisdictions, Geo-Regulations, Hazards, Living Resources, Marine Protected Areas, Ocean Uses, Physical Resources, and Political Boundaries. Below the links, there is a table with two main sections: 'Download Data & Metadata' and 'View Metadata'. The 'Download Data & Metadata' section has two columns: 'ARC/INFO coverage' and 'ArcView shapefile'. The 'View Metadata' section has three columns: 'FGDC Metadata', 'Data Summary', and 'Legal Summary'. The table lists six data layers under the 'Geo-Regulations' category: Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, and Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act. Each row shows the data layer name, the .zip file name and size, the file format, and the metadata links.

Data Layers	Download Data & Metadata		View Metadata		
	ARC/INFO coverage	ArcView shapefile	FGDC Metadata	Data Summary	Legal Summary
<b>Geo-Regulations</b>					
Clean Water Act	<a href="#">ecwa.zip</a> (<0.5Mb)	<a href="#">scwa.zip</a> (<0.5Mb)	<a href="#">FGDC</a>	■	■
Endangered Species Act	<a href="#">eesa.zip</a> (<0.5Mb)	<a href="#">sesa.zip</a> (<0.5Mb)	<a href="#">FGDC</a>	■	■
National Environmental Policy Act	<a href="#">enepa.zip</a> (<0.5Mb)	<a href="#">snepa.zip</a> (<0.5Mb)	<a href="#">FGDC</a>	■	■
Coastal Zone Management Act	<a href="#">eczma.zip</a> (<0.5Mb)	<a href="#">sczma.zip</a> (<0.5Mb)	<a href="#">FGDC</a>	■	■
Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act	<a href="#">eocsla.zip</a> (<0.5Mb)	<a href="#">socsla.zip</a> (<0.5Mb)	<a href="#">FGDC</a>	■	■

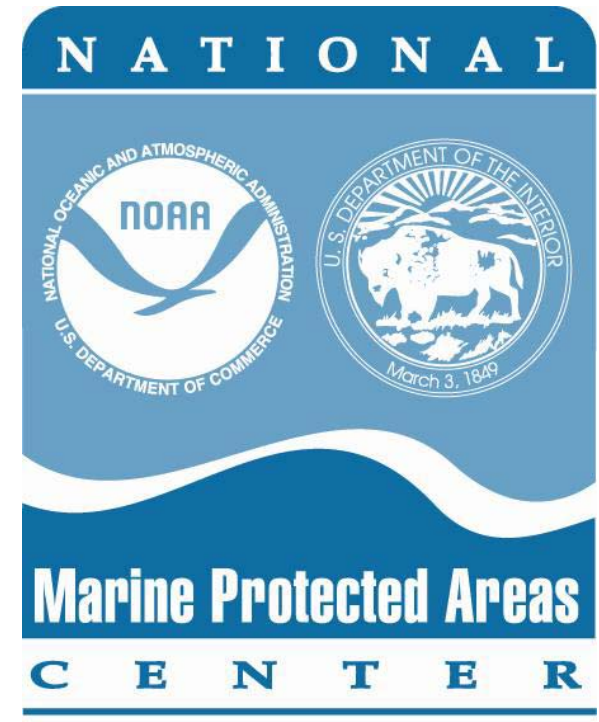
# Fishery Data Access

- **CalFish** - Centralized California fisheries data storage, management, and retrieval system
  - CalFish is using Internet Map Server technology to map and provide on-line analysis of data from multiple agencies
  - CSC developing customized data access and analysis tools for ArcIMS application
- **SEA-GEOFISH** - SouthEast-GEOgraphic Fishery-Independent Survey and Historical Database
  - Partnership with South Carolina DNR in the development of a data visualization and distribution tool
  - 27 years of fishery independent survey data
  - ArcIMS implementation with simple query functionality



# MPA Decision Support Tool Inventory

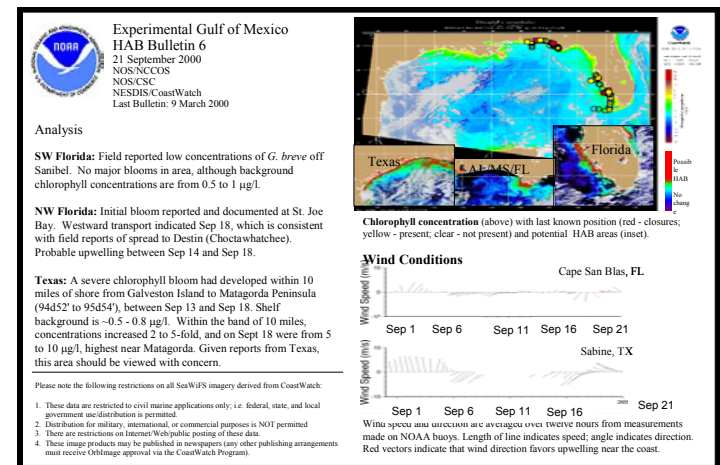
- Document detailing decision support tools targeted at MPA management, siting, and evaluation
- Inventory is based on four primary criteria
  - GIS based
  - High utility for MPA processes
  - Publicly available (low or no cost)
  - Participatory or interactive
- Inventory will be finalized soon, but we will be adding to it throughout the year



# Near Real-Time Forecast Bulletin

## Harmful Algal Blooms

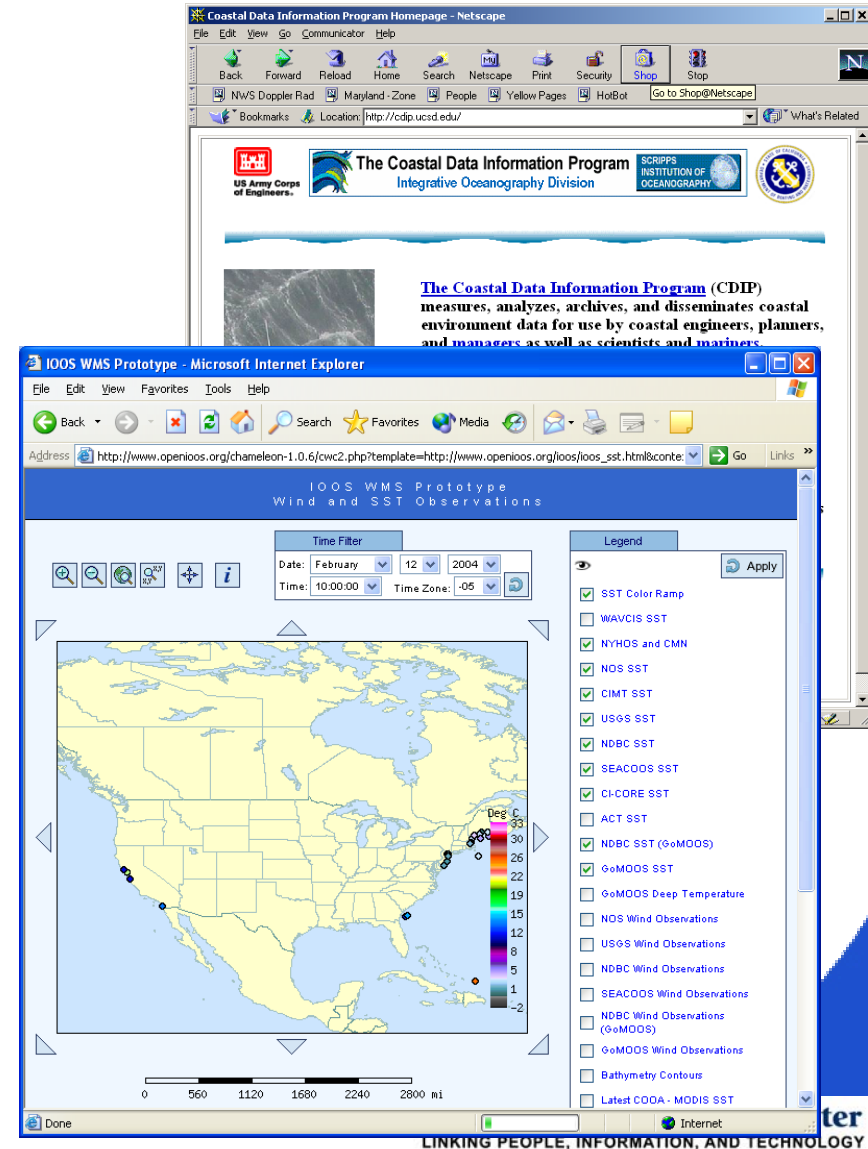
- Gulf of Mexico HAB bulletin
  - Transfer to CO-OPS
  - Investigate additional data, e.g., forecast transport model (ORR) output
  - Transfer HABMapS functionality to NCDDC
- Bulletin expansion to Pacific Northwest
  - Develop software plan; develop alpha version
  - Protocol for water quality remote sensing
- Begin to develop draft protocol for coastal managers
  - Provide guidance on selecting appropriate technologies





# Coastal Observations

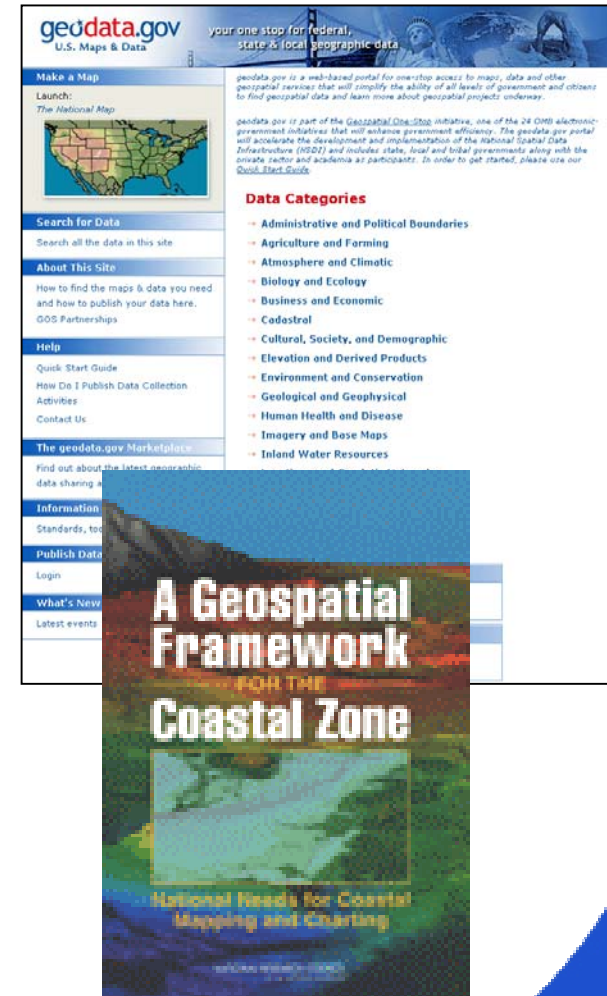
- **Chesapeake Bay Oyster Decision Support Tool**
  - Predicts larval transport for informed decision-making
  - GIS integration of regional monitoring systems (ships, buoys, satellites, etc.) and hydrodynamic models
- **Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Data Portal**
  - Compilation of real-time or near real-time data
  - Focus on interoperability
  - Multiple collaborators (federal, academia, and private industry)





# Geospatial Coordination

- NOS leads NOAA participation in FGDC and GOS activities
  - DOC representative to the Steering Committee
  - Chair, Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Subcommittee
  - Co-Chair, Marine Boundary Working Group
  - Chair, Geodetic Control Subcommittee
  - Developing Coastal and Marine Components of Geospatial One-Stop
- National Academy of Sciences National Needs for Coastal Mapping and Charting



# CSC Geospatial Training

- Coastal Applications Using ArcGIS
- GIS for Managers
- Assessing GIS for Your Organization
- Introduction to ArcGIS I
- Metadata Training
- Metadata Workshop Curriculum Materials
- Remote Sensing for Spatial Analysts



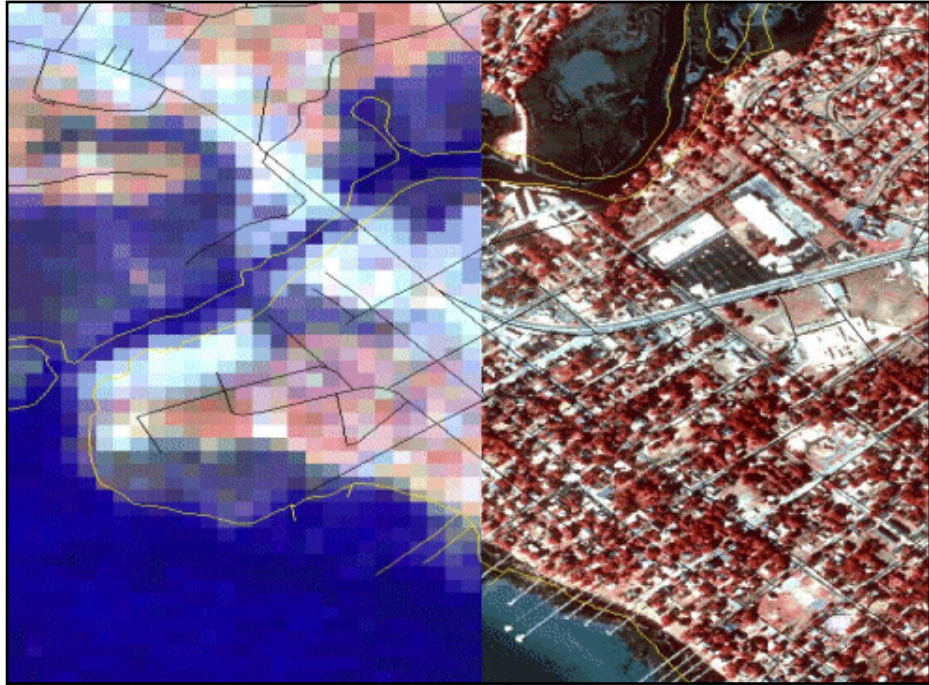
# Coastal Application Using ArcGIS

- Three-day hands-on GIS course including GPS field work
- Modules
  - Introduction to Coastal GIS
  - Visualizing Population Growth along the Coast
  - Impacts to Sensitive Habitats
  - Overview of the Global Positioning System
  - Field Data Collection
  - GPS Data Integration
  - Siting Marine Protected Areas
  - Relating Land Use and Water Quality



# Remote Sensing for Spatial Analyst

- Two-day hands-on course using ESRI software
- Modules
  - Introduction to Remote Sensing
  - Land Cover Analysis
  - Benthic Habitat
  - Coastal Ocean Monitoring
  - Coastal Erosion





# Metadata Training

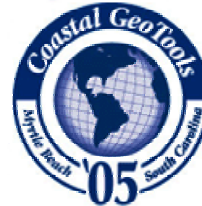
- The Center offers a variety of training in metadata creation, validation, and publication
  - 2–Day Metadata class
  - Metadata Train the Trainer workshop
  - **"Introducing Geospatial Metadata"** comprehensive guide to presenting a two-day workshop on metadata



# GeoTools '05

## March 7-10, 2005

**Goal:** Promote the understanding and applied uses of geospatial data and tools for studying and effectively managing the coast



"The Premier Spatial Technology Conference for Coastal Resource Professionals"

### Objectives:

- Promote geospatial tools, methods, and training needed for coastal management.
- Explore critical geospatial technology and training issues.
- Promote sharing of standards and coastal data through the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and identify the requirements.
- Enhance networks for developing public and private partnerships.





**<http://www.csc.noaa.gov/>**